Return and the requirement for repayment of huge market borrowings by the Konkan Railway Corporation, the Central Government have sanctioned inflation in distance for charge which is @40% for Passenger and Other Coaching traffic and 50% for Goods Traffic on Konkan Railway. The imposition of inflation in distance is a normal practice on the Indian Railways for realisation of an economic Rate of Return on its Projects. Periodic Financial review of inflation in distance is undertaken for assessing the viability of the project and based on such study, the inflation in distance for charge is either reduced or withdrawn."

Heavy Rush in Karnataka Express

335 SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that heavy rush always remain in Karnataka Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run the Rajdhani Express running between Nizamuddin and Bangalore as a bi-weekly train; and

(c) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are periods of heavy rush in Karnataka Express between Bangalore and New Delhi.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to increase the frequency of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani from weekly to bi-weekly on availability of additional Rajdhani rake.

Railway Enquiry System

336. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revised railway enquiry system is being introduced at Visakhapatnam railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). An interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for giving computer generated response regarding running of passenger carrying trains has already been installed at Visakhapatnam. This system provides a direct telephonic interface of the person making enquiry with the computerised system. Such a person is guided and prompted to provide relevant details of the enquiry to the system to enable it to provide the requisite reply. In addition inquiries regarding running of passenger carrying trains are answered by the enquiry clerks on telephones or in person.

There in no proposal to make any change in the existing arrangements.

Earnings from Advertisemets/Serials to Doordarshan

337 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of doordarshan's earnings/ commercial revenue from advertisements and sponsorships during each of the last three years respectively;

(b) the programmes/serials helped earn the highest revenue during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to rise further in its earnings; and

(d) if so, the details of sources/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan during the past three years is as under :

Year	Gross Revenue (in Rs. crores)
1993-94	372.98
1994-95	398.02
1995-96	430.13

(b) The following are the highest revenue earning programmes/serials during the said period :

Hindi Feature Films, Chitrahaar, Rangoli, Chandrakanta, Tehkikat, Alif Laila, BPL Ek Se Badkar Ek, Junoon, Superhit Mucabala, Shri Krishna, and Kanoon.

(c) and (d) it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to maximise its commercial revenues without compromising with its social and national objectives and the quality of its programmes.

Modernisation of RSP and BSP

338 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation work of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) is being done as per the target fixed therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress of work done so far, plant-wise;

(d) the amount earmarked in this regard, plant-wise;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far and likely to be incurred till completion of the work;

(f) the amount spent on this account during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the Supreme Court has recently passed strictures on the above plants for its failure in implementation of anti-pollution measures; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Basic Telephone Services

339. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Department of Tele-Communication has selected the companies for providing licences for basic Telephone Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government propose to give assistance for raising financial resources to these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the other assistance proposed to be given by the Government to these companies;

(f) the total number of meetings held between these companies and Telecommunication Department so far on this issue; and

(g) the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Raising financial resources is entirely the responsibility of the bidders.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The Government will provide assistance in networking and infrastructural matters as per the tender conditions.

(f) A series of meetings on the the issues pertaining to agreement documents were held during 25.7.96 to 7.8.96, 11.9.96, 17.10.96, 18.10.96 and 24.10.96 to 30.10.96.

(g) a large number of issues have been sorted out.

STATEMENT

Name of the Circles	Name of the Bidders	Date of issue of Letter of Intent
Tamil Nadu	M/s Basic Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Delhi	M/s HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd.	04.03.96
U.P. (West)	-do-	-do-
Haryana	-do-	-do-
Orissa	-do-	-do-
Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Bihar	M/s Techno Telecom Ltd.	13.03.96
Punjab	M/s Eassar Commvision	13.03.96
Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom	13.03.96
Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Ispat Ltd.	19.03.96

[English]

Harihar Nath Mela

340. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur district of Saran, Bihar is the largest cattle fair in India;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to promote it as a National Tourist Cattle Fair;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for promotion of Harihar Nath Mela during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur is one of the largest fairs.

(b) and (c). The Department of Tourism has identified Sonepur Fair for grant financial assistance. The Fair is being promoted the Indian Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

(d) The amount of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years is as follows :-

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Nil	3,03,962.00	3,00,000

[Translation]

Late running of Delhi bound Trains

341. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Delhi bound